

Minutes for the WasteMINZ Product Stewardship Sector Group Steering Committee on

Date: Tuesday 20th February

Time: 11am-12.30pm

Location: GotoMeeting

Present: Sarah Clare (3R Group), Marty Hoffart (Waste Watchers), Alex Kirkham (Auckland Council), Francesca Lipscombe (The New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust), Alec McNeil (Marlborough District Council), Juhi Shareef (Vector), Laurence Zwimpfer (eDay Trust), Paul Evans (WasteMINZ) - left after introduction, Dana Peterson (MfE) – joined at 11.30 and left at approximately 12pm

Apologies: Rebecca Maiden (Tauranga City Council)

Chair: Sarah Clare

Note taker: Sarah Pritchett (WasteMINZ)

No.	Agenda item	Action point	Person responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Welcome Introduction Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Evans welcomed everyone back and noted he would leave after this introduction. Following the last meeting Paul spoke to several members of the group and Sarah Clare has accepted the position as Chair. Paul updated the group on TechCollect, which is where e-waste is being collected via Office Max and is being led by industry members. The group is pro a regulatory framework for this but are beginning this scheme so they can begin collecting data and providing feedback to the Minister. Warren Overton from the Australia New Zealand Recycling Platform is the contact Paul had sent around a summary of the report from Australia about the cost of mandatory product stewardship schemes and will send the full report around once he has received it. Victoria Blake has published a thesis on e-waste in Whangarei which showed that only 2% of household e-waste in that area is recycled. <i>The e-waste management behaviours of household consumers in Whangarei, New Zealand</i> is 	Paul Evans		

		<p>available at https://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/14248. Victoria was also interviewed on Monday on RadioNZ and you can listen to that here www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018682986/time-to-crack-down-on-electronic-waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WasteMINZ has some funding to do some audits and surveys on recycling behaviours but there is scope to add in questions regarding attitudes and behaviours around product stewardship at a household level. Can everyone please send Sarah suggestions for questions that could potentially be included. 	Steering Committee		
2.	Minutes from last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laurence had submitted a correction in terms of the organisation he is representing (The eDay Trust rather than the Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa) and this correction was made by Sarah P. For future meetings Sarah P will send out the previous meeting's minutes to be accepted or corrected at the start of the next meeting. 	Sarah P		
3.	Finalisation of strategic plan and drafting of work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was some discussion around the draft strategic plan and having e-waste as a focus as voluntary schemes already exist or nearly exist for the other products. However, the strategic plan will stay as an overarching document and the work plan will highlight e-waste as a starting focus. Sarah C and Sarah P will wordsmith the Strategic Plan and send it round to the committee for finalisation. Sarah C and Sarah P will develop a draft of the work plan and send it to the rest of the committee to get it finalised before the next meeting. The workplan will focus on e-waste as a priority for the group. 	Sarah C and Sarah P		
4,	Dana Peterson from MfE	<p>Dana Peterson from MFE joined the group to answer some questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> “What is the meaning of mandatory under the WMA?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dana noted that a ‘mandatory’ product stewardship scheme under the WMA is primarily one where regulation has made it a requirement to participate in a scheme for all producers of a declared priority product. That is, in order for a trader to sell that product they need to act in accordance with an accredited priority product stewardship scheme. There are other potential regulations that could make other activities mandatory, for example, advance product management fees, a deposit-return system, and product labelling. Once a priority product is declared, a product stewardship 			

scheme 'must' be developed and accredited, but responsible parties and timeframes are not specified in the legislation.

2. Priority products and section 12 guidelines

- The scope of a scheme under the WMA depends on the scope of a voluntary scheme or the declared scope of a priority product.
- While the media may have reported that lithium ion batteries, rather than all e-waste, are of particular interest to Minister Sage for potential priority product declaration, she definitely understands the wider problem. The Ministry's advice has been that all e-waste needs to be addressed and lithium-ion batteries is a suitable first step given the risk of fire and also the desire to significantly increase New Zealand's electric vehicle fleet.
- It is important to note that a decision has not yet been made. Minister Sage will need to obtain Cabinet agreement for public consultation and she and Cabinet will consider the results of that before using her Gazettal powers to declare priority products and section 12 guidelines. The 2014 consultation can be refreshed through this process as well as new products being considered.
- Section 12 of the WMA "[the guidelines](#)" has not yet been used. The existing accreditation criterion (sections 13 and 14) do not include any requirement for significant waste minimisation (e.g., through targets), timeframes, public reporting, or incentives for eco-design and waste prevention. Officials will recommend that consultation includes proposals for clearer, stronger guidelines.

3. "What are the Terms of Reference for the MfE Product Stewardship Advisory Group?"

- To better promote existing schemes and help establish new schemes.
- The group has a mentoring role and is made up of stakeholders from the voluntary product stewardship schemes.
- The group does not advise on potential mandatory schemes, so this is a point of difference between the two groups.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the need for all product stewardship groups to provide data and advice to the MfE. From Dana’s perspective, the more information the better. <p>4. “What is the MfE’s workplan on product stewardship and the outcomes to date?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intent is to make good progress with priority product declaration and stakeholder working groups by the end of the year. • Currently developing a public consultation document on ‘setting the framework’: priority product declarations and section 12 guidelines for priority product stewardship schemes. • Policy work is going on behind the scenes but is constrained by the Ministry’s existing budget. The next stage - designing schemes by priority product group - will need to strongly involve stakeholders. Currently three working groups are running processes with Waste Management Fund (WMF) funding (tyres, refrigerants and agrichemicals). • Product stewardship for packaging has moved up the list of priorities due to public and Ministerial interest. • To explore packaging product stewardship solutions such as CDS the WMF could also be used to support a stakeholder process representing key players in the product lifecycle. To support the cost-benefit assessment criteria for Cabinet decision the process would need to look at multiple options. <p>5. Other comments from Dana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group can best help the Ministry at this stage, while the consultation document is being prepared, by sharing any examples of good models from overseas that could be adopted here as well as examples of bad models that we can design out from the beginning. Spreading the word about any public consultations and participating would also be very welcome. • Cost/benefit analysis under the WMA specifically includes both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits. 			
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public opinion on an issue is always considered in Ministerial and Cabinet decision-making. Data from public consultations is central to advice provided by officials. In the case of e-waste, Dana noted that the 2005, 2009 and 2014 consultations and the LGNZ remit to Government are in the mix. Dana is happy to be this group's main MfE contact. 			
5	Updates from other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marty reported on the work of the New Zealand Product Stewardship Council of which he is a member. Their work has been limited of late but they have recently employed Hannah Blumhardt (of the Rubbish Trip) to be a coordinator and it is hoped Hannah will work with the Kiwi Bottle Drive to advance, among other things, a CDS. Juhi is to investigate whether the LinkedIn Group that was set up for the MfE PS advisory group could be widened to include this group. 			
6	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laurence has worked on a position paper from the group on e-waste. He welcomes comments on it. 			
7	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul to forward full report on the cost of mandatory product stewardship schemes once he has received it Steering Committee to send Sarah P questions regarding attitudes and behaviours around product stewardship at a household level for the survey Sarah P and Sarah C to refine strategic plan and begin on work plan 	Paul Evans Steering Committee Sarah C and Sarah P		
8	2019 meeting dates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 22nd May, 11am-12.30 Wednesday 21st August, 11am-12.30 Wednesday 20th November, 11am-12.30 			